



Alternative Fuel  
Information Series

# Clean Cities National Partner Awards

May 2002

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY,  
OFFICE of ENERGY EFFICIENCY and RENEWABLE ENERGY

## Clean Cities National Partner Awards

The Clean Cities Program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proud to present the following entities with National Partner Awards, in recognition of their outstanding efforts to promote alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). These recipients were inducted into the Clean Cities Hall of Fame at the 8th National Clean Cities Conference in May 2002. The awards recognize companies, individuals, organizations, cities, and states striving to make alternative fuel use a reality in communities throughout the United States.

### SunLine Transit Agency

In 1994, SunLine Transit Agency of Thousand Palms, California parked its fleet of diesel buses and switched overnight to a fleet powered 100% by compressed natural gas. At that time, SunLine's board of directors mandated that all vehicles purchased by the agency in the future would be powered by alternative fuels. SunLine now has more than 150 such vehicles including buses, paratransit vans, and regional street sweepers.

In addition to its natural gas fleet, SunLine is also exploring new transportation technologies in a limited number of vehicles. For example, the agency uses zero emission fuel cell vehicles powered by hydrogen that is generated on site from solar power and other renewable resources. Some of its vehicles run on Hythane, an ultra-clean blend of hydrogen and natural gas. And the agency has established the world's first "Clean Fuels Mall," where compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, hydrogen, and Hythane are available to the public 24 hours a day and prototype advanced transportation technologies are beta tested.

SunLine is an active stakeholder in the Coachella Valley Clean Cities Coalition, which will host the National Clean Cities Conference in 2003. Since beginning its move toward alternative fuels, the agency estimates it has displaced more than 5.5 million gallons of petroleum fuels.



Some of the SunLine Transit Agency's SunBuses operate on Hythane, an ultra-clean blend of hydrogen and natural gas.

Richard Parish, NREL/PTX 10722

### American Lung Association

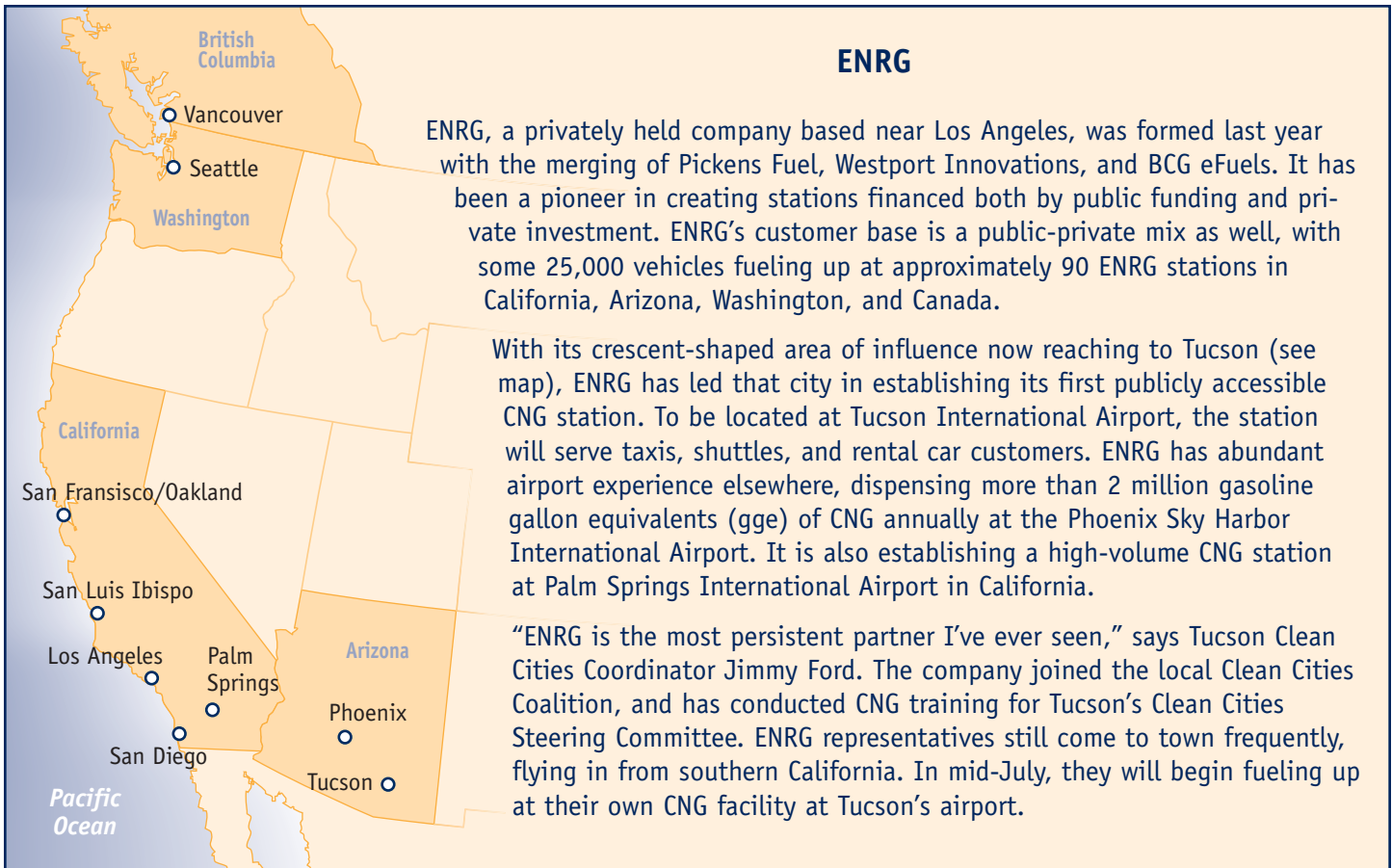
Its goals are closely aligned to those of the Clean Cities Program: The American Lung Association (ALA) fights lung disease in all its forms. In addition to its well-known anti-smoking campaign, the organization acts as a high-profile advocate for environmental health and clean air.

## ENRG

ENRG, a privately held company based near Los Angeles, was formed last year with the merging of Pickens Fuel, Westport Innovations, and BCG eFuels. It has been a pioneer in creating stations financed both by public funding and private investment. ENRG's customer base is a public-private mix as well, with some 25,000 vehicles fueling up at approximately 90 ENRG stations in California, Arizona, Washington, and Canada.

With its crescent-shaped area of influence now reaching to Tucson (see map), ENRG has led that city in establishing its first publicly accessible CNG station. To be located at Tucson International Airport, the station will serve taxis, shuttles, and rental car customers. ENRG has abundant airport experience elsewhere, dispensing more than 2 million gasoline gallon equivalents (gge) of CNG annually at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. It is also establishing a high-volume CNG station at Palm Springs International Airport in California.

"ENRG is the most persistent partner I've ever seen," says Tucson Clean Cities Coordinator Jimmy Ford. The company joined the local Clean Cities Coalition, and has conducted CNG training for Tucson's Clean Cities Steering Committee. ENRG representatives still come to town frequently, flying in from southern California. In mid-July, they will begin fueling up at their own CNG facility at Tucson's airport.



In 26 of the approximately 80 coalitions nationwide, ALA has signed on as a local stakeholder. That kind of commitment often involves paying dues, serving on outreach committees, and in many cases, staffing. In Minnesota's Twin Cities, for example, the ALA chapter houses and coordinates the local Clean Cities Coalition. Another important role of ALA is fundraising. As a nonprofit, it can accept private foundation grants, soliciting funds that ultimately help support AFV projects and Clean Cities events.

ALA is an active stakeholder in the Central Ohio Clean Cities Coalition, which was officially designated in 2001. "We've gotten a great deal of information and perspective on air quality issues from ALA," says coordinator Sam Spofforth. "They also lend an air of credibility to what we do."

### Dallas County Schools in Texas

Two years ago, Dallas County Schools in Texas began using propane-fueled buses for one simple reason—to keep the air healthy for kids. The agency transports approximately 60,000 children daily in seven

independent school districts. Its buses accumulate an estimated 20 million miles annually, while providing transportation for regular and special education, and extracurricular activities.

Recognizing the opportunity offered by AFVs, the agency has converted approximately half of its 1,200 buses to propane. Most of the conversions were Bluebird buses, originally equipped to run on diesel. Of the seven service centers housing its school buses, five include propane refueling stations. Dallas County Schools estimates that 1.5 million gallons of gasoline and diesel were displaced through its use of propane last year.



Half of the 1,200 buses serving Dallas County Schools run on propane.



Tacoma is helping to preserve its natural and architectural beauty by using B20 in city vehicles.

### City of Tacoma

Living up to its nickname “City of Destiny,” Tacoma, Washington is leading the way to biodiesel use in the Pacific Northwest. It is the first northwestern city to commit an entire fleet to B20 biodiesel fuel. Known for its beautiful location on Puget Sound, this city of 90,000 residents can also take pride in the air quality benefits provided by cleaner B20 garbage and recycling trucks.

As part of an ongoing commitment to environmental protection, the city last November began using B20 in its fleet of 85 garbage and recycling trucks. City officials estimate that the fleet will use 200,000 gallons of B20 annually. Why did Tacoma choose B20? According to fleet manager Steve Hennessey, it was primarily because of ease of use. Tacoma is now exploring ways to operate additional city vehicles on B20. While the city seeks media coverage for biodiesel and alternative fuels in general, it also provides education and assistance to other fleets considering alternative fuels.

### KeySpan Energy



KeySpan Energy, the largest gas-distribution company

in the northeastern United States, has demonstrated leadership by building a fleet of more than 1,000 AFVs, and by operating 25 CNG refueling stations in metropolitan New York City and New England.

KeySpan has a long history of partnering on AFV projects. Since 1979 it has worked with major manufacturers to design natural gas vehicle technology.



### Oklahoma Natural Gas

Founded in 1906, ONG is one of the oldest corporations in Oklahoma. It serves approximately 770,000 residential, commercial, and industrial natural gas customers throughout the state, and has the largest AFV fleet among all gas utility companies in the United States.

As part of its ongoing commitment to AFVs, according to *Natural Gas Fuels* magazine, the company expects to purchase or convert 110 vehicles to natural gas this year, adding to its total of 900 at the start of the year. It expects to use about 720,000 gge of CNG annually. ONG is also heavily involved in developing natural gas fueling infrastructure. It manufactured, packaged, and installed 10 natural gas compressor stations in 2001.



CNG from ONG fuels its own fleet as well as passenger boats on Oklahoma City's canal system.

The company is a founding member of the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition. It has fought successfully for legislative incentives, and has developed special gas rates to encourage fleets to convert to natural gas.

As a recognized leader in natural gas vehicle technology, KeySpan has worked to develop fleet-based projects in New York and Boston. It has acted as a leader for smaller gas companies by helping them to promote natural gas vehicles in other parts of New England. KeySpan has worked with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and other organizations on several initiatives including the New York City Clean Fuel Taxi Program. The company's support of AFVs is demonstrated by its accumulation of more than 1,266 EPA credits available for trade.



## AFV Hero Award

### Richard Cromwell III, SunLine Transit Agency

Richard Cromwell is general manager and chief executive officer of SunLine Transit Agency. As a champion of AFVs in 1994, Cromwell spearheaded SunLine's transition to a 100% alternative fuel fleet (see SunLine Transit, page 1). He was largely responsible for instituting the Clean Fuels Mall, where compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, hydrogen, and Hythane are available to the public 24 hours a day and prototype advanced transportation technologies are tested.



Richard Cromwell III

Cromwell is chairman of the American Public Transportation Association's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Committee. He sits on the boards of the Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, California National Gas Fuel Coalition, and CALSTART, a technology company whose goals are to clean the air, create high quality jobs, and develop energy efficient transportation.

Cromwell's international AFV efforts have been instrumental in getting China and several other Countries to adopt aggressive AFV strategies. Questions about AFVs and alternative fuels are welcome at SunLine, says Cromwell, who has hosted many U.S. and international delegations. "There's no reason for everyone to reinvent the wheel. Why should another transit agency make the same mistakes we did or waste resources learning what works best? We all live on the same planet. We all breathe the same air. If we can help further the clean fuels cause, we're happy to share our knowledge and experience with others."

## About Clean Cities...

The Clean Cities Program is a voluntary, locally based government and industry partnership. The program, now in its tenth year, seeks to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel in order to reduce dependence on imported oil, lessen air pollution, and increase public awareness about the benefits of using alternative fuels over gasoline and diesel. At least 80 coalitions and some 4,700 stakeholders have joined to support the Clean Cities Program. In addition to presenting the Clean Cities Coalition Awards, the Clean Cities Program annually recognizes the outstanding achievements of National Partners. Together with its partners and coalitions, Clean Cities strives to promote alternative fuel use and develop AFV infrastructure, and AFV legislation.

For more information, you can:

- call the Clean Cities Hotline at 1-800-CCITIES
- visit the Clean Cities Web site at [www.cities.doe.gov](http://www.cities.doe.gov) or [www.cities.doe.gov/international](http://www.cities.doe.gov/international) or
- e-mail the Clean Cities Hotline at [ccities@nrel.gov](mailto:ccities@nrel.gov)

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy,  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Prepared by  
the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory  
Operated by Midwest Research Institute • Battelle • Bechtel

NREL/FS-540-32073  
May 2002



Printed with a renewable-source ink on paper containing  
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